

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	Arming of Soviet Merchant Vessels	DATE DISTR.	29 March 1954	
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1. Soviet and Satellite ships which are equipped with gun platforms and other military equipment carry the necessary arms and munitions in their holds. The arms and munitions are packed in crates and cases which are camouflaged as commercial goods.
2. These armaments are carried so that, in the event of unexpected conflict, crews of Soviet ships which are in enemy waters or in enemy ports will be able to defend themselves and to do damage. If necessary, they will also be capable of scuttling their own ships.
3. The crates and cases containing the arms and munitions are occasionally covered by customs declarations as well as by bills of lading bearing false consignee addresses and false descriptions of contents. The bill of lading, suitably annotated, clears the captain of the ship with all foreign authorities on the trip out of the USSR and on the return.

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